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## NEWSBYTES

### OAF Appreciation Day

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen will honor Air Force members who participated in the Kosovo crisis during today's Operation Allied Force Appreciation Day at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Decorations being awarded to OAF veterans during a ceremony hosted by Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan include three Silver Stars. These are awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

Additionally, more than 20 aircraft, representing each type of airframe that participated in OAF will be on display.

### Coalition aircraft respond

On Sept. 14, U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, and U.S. Marine Corps and Navy F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats enforcing the Southern No-Fly Zone used precision guided munitions to strike two military radar sites in southern Iraq near the town of Qalat Salih and on the Al Faw peninsula near the Arabian Gulf coast.

The strikes were in response to three incidents earlier in the day of Iraqi aircraft violating the Southern No-Fly zone. During the strikes, two Iraqi fighters flew south of the 33<sup>rd</sup> parallel, violating the no-fly zone for the fourth time that day. Coalition aircraft engaged the aircraft; however, they turned and flew out of the no-fly zone.

All coalition aircraft returned safely and battle damage assessment is ongoing.

These hostile acts represent the latest of more than 360 direct provocations by Iraqi forces, including nearly 135 no-fly zone violations, and some 240 separate incidents of Iraqi surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery fire directed against coalition aircraft since Operation Desert Fox in December.

## AF evacuates aircraft

■ Hundreds of aircraft moved to avoid Floyd

WASHINGTON —

With Hurricane Floyd threatening the eastern seaboard, Air Force bases along the coast began evacuating hundreds of aircraft in anticipation of the Category 4 storm's landfall later this week.

On the Saffir-Simpson scale of strength, a Category 4 storm can have winds from 131 to 155 mph, a storm surge from 13 -18 feet and is capable of extreme damage.

The following major commands reported aircraft evacuations:

**Air Combat Command**

■ 1st Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Va.: anticipated evacuating  
**continued on Page 3**



*Air Force bases along the Gulf Coast began evacuating hundreds of aircraft in advance of Floyd's landfall later this week. Pictured above is a WC-130 Hurricane Hunter. For more information on the one-of-a-kind Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters, go to <http://www.hurricanehunters.com/>.*

## CSAF praises force, airpower

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan, spoke on the success of the Kosovo air campaign and the future of the service at the annual Air Force Association national convention Sept. 14 at the Marriott Wardman Hotel.

General Ryan praised those in uniform, to both airmen and AFA members alike in attendance, for the massive air attack during Operation Allied Force. He said the damage placed on the Serbs could not have happened

without those serving at home and abroad.

For 78 days, the chief said Air Force assets put the pressure on all the resources of Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic, citing that the 11-week NATO-driven airstrike was considered a major effort that evolved into a major theater war.

"By percentage of force — tankers, bombers, fighters ISR [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] assets, by almost any measure you can think of, Allied Force — combined with our other contingency deployments

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## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

## Don't be so quick to blame

I don't completely agree with the writer who thinks you need to look at the supervisor for failing retention rates, [Supervisors are recruiters, Sept. 1]. ... If it were my section alone where all the airmen were getting out, I'd have to look at myself as part of the problem. This issue, however, is not my section alone, and crosses numerous specialties. It's easy to throw blame around, but quick blame responses don't help the situation, they make it worse.

**Tech. Sgt. Raymond J. Flaiz**  
Lackland AFB, Texas

## Anthrax concerns

I agree with other writers who say there is a lot of information available regarding the anthrax vaccine. However, what I'm hearing from individuals leery about the vaccination is they don't trust this information. I did what I was told for 22 years—I had my doubts, questions and concerns but I did what I was asked to do. However, I had more faith in my service and leaders then. I think the sad thing here is what our leaders have done to cause service members to not trust them.

**Master Sgt. Donald Truchsess**  
USAF, Retired

## Pay discrepancy

I read the other day on the Air Force web page that there was really no discrepancy between what the NCOs and officers were going to get in the proposed July 2000 pay increases. What a slap in the face this was when I read exactly what the percentages were for each. Not only was there not a comparable increase for the middle tier NCO but basically nothing for the NCO beyond six years of service. ... In the future I will think about the way our middle and upper NCO tiers were treated. I don't think I want to risk the possibility of being treated the same way.

**Senior Airman Jason L. Whitman**  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

## Spread the wealth

I have a few comments not as much about the pay table reform as about general inequity in the pay table itself. For instance, under the proposed July 1 pay table reform, an O-3 with four years of service makes more than an E-8 with 24 years of service. ... Just the thought of serving honorably for 24 years and then making less money before retirement than an O-3 with four years makes my blood boil. ... I'm not trying to make this a competition between officers and enlisted, but I didn't make the pay table, the Air Force did. ... Spread the wealth a little more. ...

**Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes**  
Dyess AFB, Texas

# Mentorship crucial to Air Force's future

**By Chief Master Sgt. Rand Bethea**  
*Air Combat Command*

**M**entorship is one of the fundamental building blocks of our organization. It serves as a way of training and teaching the leaders of tomorrow. It also serves as a tool to instruct and pass on the knowledge we have gained.

"The development of our people is second in importance only to mission ... a mentoring program can help us achieve this goal," said retired Gen. Billy Boles, former Air Education and Training Command commander.

It's a responsibility we have not only to others, but to ourselves. As leaders, we must strive to assist others in developing themselves to their full potential. We must create a supportive environment for mentoring relationships to exist.

What is mentoring? Simply stated, it's when people take their time, know-how and efforts to help others enhance the knowledge and skills related to their jobs and careers. It's much like an apprenticeship. A mentor is a trusted friend, peer, supervisor, co-worker or superior.

Mentoring helps people reach their full potential. It is an aid to help people accomplish current and future goals. Mentoring is a natural process that exists in the workplace.

It can be either on an informal or formal basis. Informal mentoring is a natural process where information and new skills are passed on. It usually exists between a supervisor and a subordinate. It happens naturally when we find a new way to do something or show somebody a new method. Quite often, we don't even realize we are mentoring someone because it seems so natural.

Formal mentoring is in a more structured environment where knowledge and skills are

formally taught. People have a more defined role of teacher and student.

For example, consider an Air Force member completing their qualification training for a skill level upgrade. From the beginning, a formal mentor is assigned to carefully teach the required tasks.

The Air Force encourages us to seek "natural" mentoring connections from among the people we most respect. Look for someone who has the expertise and experience you'd like to emulate.

Initially, you may want to approach that person with a specific professional question. If that goes well, ask if he or she has the time and would be willing to be your mentor and share the benefit of his or her experiences with you.

As airmen, we are charged with passing along mentoring tools and skills to our co-workers, subordinates and superiors. Mentoring helps everyone to reach his or her maximum potential.



# V-22 holds promise

## ■ Special ops eye aircraft

**By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey**  
Headquarters United States Air Force

**WASHINGTON** — If the tilt-rotor V-22 Osprey becomes part of the Air Force inventory, its prowess will be a welcome addition according to the commander of the Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Lt. Gen. Clay Bailey who was at the Pentagon during a demonstration of the V-22 Sept. 8, said given all its assets, the Osprey's added range and speed in areas of darkness—a critical element in major theater wars—enhances the mission and complements the C-130.

The Air Force is expected to receive 50 V-22s for the special operations mission. "Every mission won't require advanced technology," the general said. "We will package to counter the threat."

The V-22 can perform missions of fixed and rotor wing aircraft like the MH-53J Pave Low and MC-130 Combat Talon. The V-22 is scheduled to replace both the MH-53J and MH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Stafford

*Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan (right), and the chief test pilot, Tom Macdonald, leave the MV-22 after Ryan's first flight in the aircraft. The MV-22 is a joint-service, multimission, tilt-rotor aircraft.*

According to Col. Scott Stephens, the command's director of plans, programs and operations, the nose of the aircraft will rise higher for better visibility because of the probes used inside to support the aircraft's capabilities. He said the multi-mode radar, extensive range fuel tanks and advance intelligence systems add to the aircraft's speed, range and flexibility amenities.

Testing of the Osprey starts in the spring of 2000.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

# Floyd causes aircraft evacuation

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34 F-15s from the 1<sup>st</sup> FW and five F-16s from Nellis AFB, Nev., which are at Langley for training, to Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind.;

■ 347th Wing, Moody AFB, Ga.: two HH-60s to Fort Campbell, Ky.; 25 F-16s and one HC-130 to Kelly AFB, Texas; one HC-130 to Barksdale AFB, La.; five HC-130s to Dyess AFB, Texas; and six A-10s to Barksdale.

■ 23rd Fighter Group, Pope AFB, N.C.: 35 A-10s to Rickenbacker International Airport, Ohio.

■ 93rd Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, Ga.: three E-8s to Tinker AFB, Okla.

■ 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.: 62 F-16s to Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

■ 4th FW, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.: 55 F-15s to Tinker.

■ 125th FW, Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla.: 13 F-15s to Barksdale.

■ 169th FW, McEntire ANG Base, S.C.: 15 F-16s to Randolph AFB, Texas.

## Air Force Reserve Command

■ 482nd FW, Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla.: 10 F-16s to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

■ 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group, Patrick AFB, Fla.: 7 HH-60s and 4 HC-130s to Dobbins.

■ 916<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.: 6 KC-135Rs to Tinker.

Air Mobility Command evacuated C-141s and C-17s from Charleston AFB, S.C.; C-130s and A-10s from Pope AFB, N.C.; and KC-135s from MacDill AFB, Fla.

Additionally, 14 F-16s from Aviano Air Base, Italy, which were at MacDill for training evacuated to Carswell, Texas.

# Quality housing closer to reality

**WASHINGTON** — The Air Force's journey toward providing access to quality housing for its families took a quantum leap forward with approval of its Family Housing Master Plan.

"During the last two years, Air Force teams visited — with a few exceptions such as Aviano, Air Base [Italy] due to the Kosovo conflict — every installation in the Air Force with family housing to gather and validate information about existing housing and requirements," Col. Emmitt Smith, chief, Air Force housing division, said. These teams prepared installation-specific family housing plans.

Each installation's housing plans and requirements were reviewed and approved, and consolidated into the Family Housing Master Plan

before being forwarded to the Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan for approval.

The 10-year plan goes into force in fiscal 2001. The Air Force has already received approval from Congress for fiscal 2000 family housing funds totaling \$350 million to upgrade and build new units.

"We needed an investment road map because DOD [Department of Defense] guidance requires each service to program resources to revitalize, divest through privatization or demolish inadequate housing by or before 2010," Colonel Smith explained. He said the plan is expected to cost the service \$32.9 billion over the 10-year period.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

# 70 selected for OTS

The Air Force is giving 70 enlisted members the chance to trade in their stripes for gold bars after being chosen to attend Officer Training School.

Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service conducted OTS Selection Board 9912, at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Aug. 17-20. Of the 338 applications the board selected 171 for a 51-percent selection rate.

The selection list is available at <http://www.aetc.af.mil/pa/aetcnews.htm>.

OTS boards meet every six weeks. For more information concerning OTS and the application process, contact the local education services office.





# Y2K strategic stability

## ■ U.S., Russia work plan

WASHINGTON — The United States and the Russian Federation have signed a joint statement indicating their intent to establish the Center for Year 2000 Strategic Stability during the Year 2000 transition period.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and Russian Federation Minister of Defense Igor Sergeyev formally signed the statement in Moscow Sept. 13.

In the CY2KSS, U.S. and Russian military personnel will sit side-by-side during the Y2K transition period, from late December 1999 to mid-January 2000, and continuously monitor U.S.-provided information on missile and space launches.

The \$8 million center is on schedule to be completed Dec. 1 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

In addition to missile and space launches,



MX Peacekeeper launch

the center will serve as a means to communicate about other defense-related events that could be potentially de-stabilizing, such as an aircraft going off course due to a Y2K failure of a navigation or communication system.

The CY2KSS is one component of a comprehensive Defense Department-related Y2K cooperation program that began to take shape in February 1999. In addition to establishing the CY2KSS, the U.S. and Russia have four other efforts:

- Exchanging Y2K experiences to assist each other in managing the Y2K problem and understanding each other's management plans and progress.
- Ensuring the direct communication links between our national leaders remain reliable.
- Maintaining the security of the Russian nuclear weapons stockpile.
- Exchanging Y2K experiences related to nuclear forces to maintain reliable nuclear command and control.

# Act defines political activities

WASHINGTON — Certain restrictions apply to federal civilian employees when it comes to political campaigns and elections.

Of course, federal employees may, and should, register and vote for the candidates and issues of their choice, said Jane Love, from the General Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

However, there is a federal law, called the Hatch Act, which applies to federal civilian employees. The act details acceptable and unacceptable actions by federal civilian employees. For example, employees may be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections and join and be an active member of

a political party or club but they may not be candidates for public office in partisan elections or engage in political activity while on duty, in a government office, wearing an official uniform; or driving a government vehicle.

More information on the Hatch Act and its guidelines for federal workers on the U.S. Office of Special Counsel's website: <http://www.osc.gov> or by calling (800) 854-2824.

An article in the Sept. 1 edition of U.S. Air Force Online News addressed the Defense Department's policy covering military members' participation in political activities.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## CSAF praises force, airpower

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around the globe was bigger than our effort in Desert Storm, or that in Vietnam," said General Ryan, who called the airstrike a total force victory.

The Guard and Reserve provided 40 percent of the deployed refueling strength in the KC-135 and 25 percent of the A-10 force.

Meanwhile, the general said the "beat goes on" as sure as Allied Force is put to rest, other peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the Air Force continue.

In order to meet contingencies in the future, General Ryan reverted back to what his father, then-Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Ryan, said 30 years ago.

"Aerospace is an expanding matrix for deterrence and is the operational medium for which the Air Force is preeminent," he said. "That is as true today, as it was 30 years ago when the Air Force committed to the F-15 and we must make it so for the next 30 years."

General Ryan stressed the need for the F-22 in order for the force to remain superior and protect soldiers, sailors, Marines and coast guardsmen alike. Realizing that the F-22 is not enough, the general also referenced the aerospace expeditionary force as the new way the Air Force will carry out its expeditionary mission. AEF is considered the answer to slowing down the deployment pace, bringing predictability for airmen and maintaining a light, lean and lethal force.

After General Ryan's speech, the AFA recognized Air Force achievements by presenting seven awards. The awards and names of individuals are available online.



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